

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03918 121923Z

71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-12 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ADP-00

OMB-01 EB-11 ACDA-19 AEC-11 SS-15 NSC-10 RSR-01 /145 W

----- 067262

R 121635Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8087

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASS THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

SUCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3918

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: CALL ON VAN ELSLANDE: BURDENSARING, BELGIAN CONCERN
OVER US-SOVIET NUCLEAR WAR AGREEMENT

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE JULY 12, TELLING
HIM THAT JUST BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON ON CONSULTATION
I WISHED TO REASSURE MYSELF OF OUR GOOD UNDERSTANDING ON MATTERS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 03918 121923Z

OF COMMON CONCERN. VAN ELSLANDE RESPONDED THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING

WAS THE BEST POSSIBLE, REFERRING TO HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN PARLIAMENT (BRUSSELS 3651) AND IN COPENHAGEN IN WHICH HE HAD MADE CLEAR THAT BELGIUM ATTACHED VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE "AMERICAN CONNECTION".

2. I DREW THE MINISTER'S ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO A EUROPEAN INVOLVEMENT ON BURDEN SHARING, WITH ITS OVERRIDING PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT TO COUNTER CONGRESSIONAL FORCES SEEKING US TROOP REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE. VAN ELSLANDE REPLIED THAT HE HAD JUST OBTAINED A "GREEN LIGHT" FROM THE CABINET TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FINANCE, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, AND DEFENSE TO STUDY THE PROBLEM AND DEVELOP A BELGIAN POSITION. HE SAID HE EXPECTED THE RESULTS WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO US.

3. I TOLD THE MINISTER WE WOULD CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO CONSULT WITH OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN. VAN ELSLANDE SAID HE REGRETTED THAT WE HAD NOT CONSULTED WITH THE ALLIANCE IN COPENHAGEN ON THE US-SOVIET AGREEMENT ON THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR. THE GOB WAS GRIEVED OVER THIS LACK OF CONSULTATION. WHILE WELCOMING THE AGREEMENT, HIS OWN READING OF IT GAVE RISE TO CONCERN THAT IT MIGHT AT LEAST IN PART REMOVE THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR UMBRELLA FROM NATO, LEAVING EUROPE PROTECTED ONLY BY THE "MINI-UMBRELLA" OF THE FRENCH.

4. I ASKED THE MINISTER IF HE HAD CAREFULLY STUDIED THE AGREEMENT. I URGED HIM TO CONSIDER ARTICLE 4 AS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO ARTICLES 1, 2, AND 6, WHICH RELATED TO OUR RELATIONSHIP AND OBLIGATIONS TO OUR ALLIES. I NOTED THAT ARTICLE 4 DID NOT TREAT WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN IN CASE OF NUCLEAR WAR ITSELF BUT ONLY IN THE EVENT OF CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH THREATENED NUCLEAR WAR. I ASKED THE MINISTER TO STUDY THE AGREEMENT AND, IF HE WAS STILL CONCERNED, TO GIVE US A SCENARIO OF POSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD IN ANY WAY REDUCE THE RELIABILITY OF THE NUCLEAR DETERRENT.

5. I TOLD THE MINISTER I FOUND THE AGREEMENT A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO PERSUADE THE SOVIETS FOR MANY YEARS OF THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WAR. THE AGREEMENT SHOWS THE ADVANCE OF SOVIET THINKING OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS. THE MINISTER SAID HE WOULD RESTUDY THE AGREEMENT,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 03918 121923Z

PARTICULARLY ARTICLE 4, IN THIS LIGHT.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRUSSE03918
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS STRAUZ-HUPE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730739/aaaabcceq.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON VAN ELSLANDE: BURDENSARING, BELGIAN CONCERN OVER US-SOVIET NUCLEAR WAR AGREEMENT
TAGS: PARM, BE, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005